Application No.: 10/751,502

Amendment dated: January 3, 2005

Reply to Office Action of: September 5, 2004

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, listings, of claims in the application:

## **Listing of Claims:**

1(currently amended). A punch comprising:

a base having walls on a periphery thereof;

a base plate mounted to the walls of the base and having a plurality of through holes and connection holes:

a plurality of punch units each having a bottom plate and a casing which is connected to the bottom plate, a receiving slot defined between the bottom plate and the casing, the bottom plate including a first hole defined therethrough and the casing including a second hole that is located in alignment with the first hole, a punch member movably extending through the casing and a spring mounted to the punch member and biased between two opposite walls of the casing, the punch member being located such that a lower end of the punch member may extend through the second hole, the receiving slot, the first hole and the through hole, a bolt extending through one of the connection holes and connected to the bottom plate of one of the punch units, two positioning blocks extending from the bottom plate and being engaged with the connection hole, wherein the connection holes each include two elongate portions with which the positioning blocks are engaged, and

a handle pivotably connected to two lugs on two ends of the base plate and having a plurality of protrusions on an underside thereof such that top ends of the punch members are pushed by the protrusions.

2(canceled).

Application No.: 10/751,502

Amendment dated: January 3, 2005

Reply to Office Action of: September 5, 2004

3(original). The punch as claimed in claim 1, wherein the protrusions are composed of a central protrusion and two side protrusions, the central protrusion has a thickness larger than a thickness of each of the two side protrusions so that the central protrusion touches the punch unit corresponding thereto before the two side protrusions touch the punch units corresponding thereto.

4(original). The punch as claimed in claim 1, wherein the base plate includes a ridge extending upward from a front side thereof and a front side of the bottom plate of each punch unit has an inclined top surface, the front side of the bottom plate is located at a rear end of the ridge and a highest portion of the ridge is higher than a lower edge of the inclined top surface of the front side of each of the bottom plates.

5(currrently amended). A punch comprising:

a base having walls on a periphery thereof;

a base plate mounted to the walls of the base and having a plurality of through holes and connection holes, a ridge extending upward from a front side of the base plate;

a plurality of punch units each having a bottom plate and a casing which is connected to the bottom plate, a receiving slot defined between the bottom plate and the casing, the bottom plate including a first hole defined therethrough and the casing including a second hole that is located in alignment with the first hole, a punch member movably extending through the casing and a spring mounted to the punch member and biased between two opposite walls of the casing, the punch member being located such that a lower end of the punch member may extend through the second hole, the receiving slot, the first hole and the through hole, a bolt extending through one of the connection holes and connected to the bottom plate of one of the punch units, and

a handle pivotably connected to two lugs on two ends of the base plate and having a plurality of protrusions on an underside thereof such that top ends of the punch members are pushed by the protrusions, wherein the protrusions are composed of a central protrusion and two side protrusions, the central protrusion has a thickness

Application No.: 10/751,502

Amendment dated: January 3, 2005

Reply to Office Action of: September 5, 2004

larger than a thickness of each of the two side protrusions so that the central protrusion touches the punch unit corresponding thereto before the two side protrusions touch the

punch units corresponding thereto.

6(original). The punch as claimed in claim 5, wherein two positioning blocks

extend from the bottom plate and the connection holes each include two elongate

portions with which the positioning blocks are engaged.

7(canceled).

8(original). The punch as claimed in claim 5, wherein a front side of the bottom

plate of each punch unit has an inclined top surface and is located at a rear end of the

ridge, a highest portion of the ridge is higher than a lower edge of the inclined top

surface of the front side of each of the bottom plates.

4